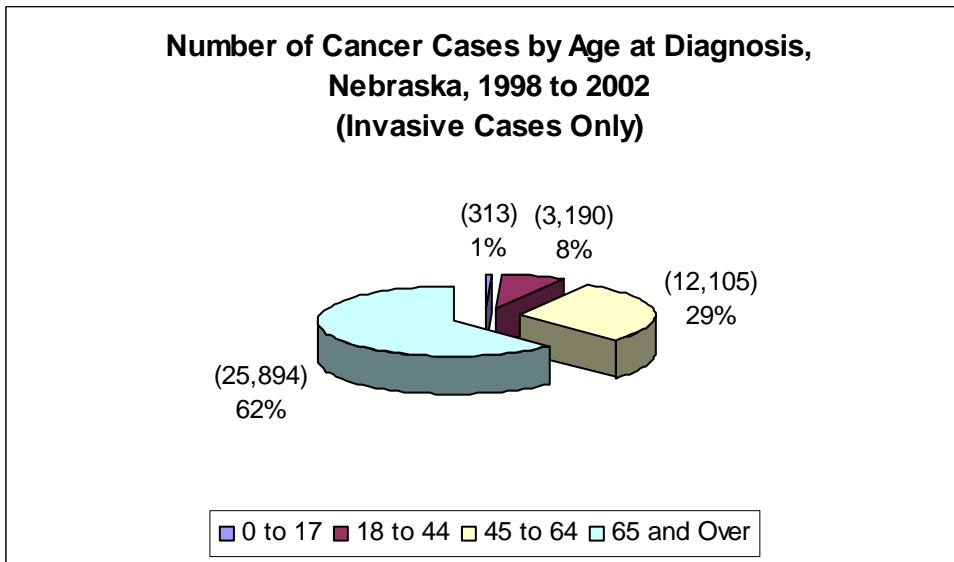


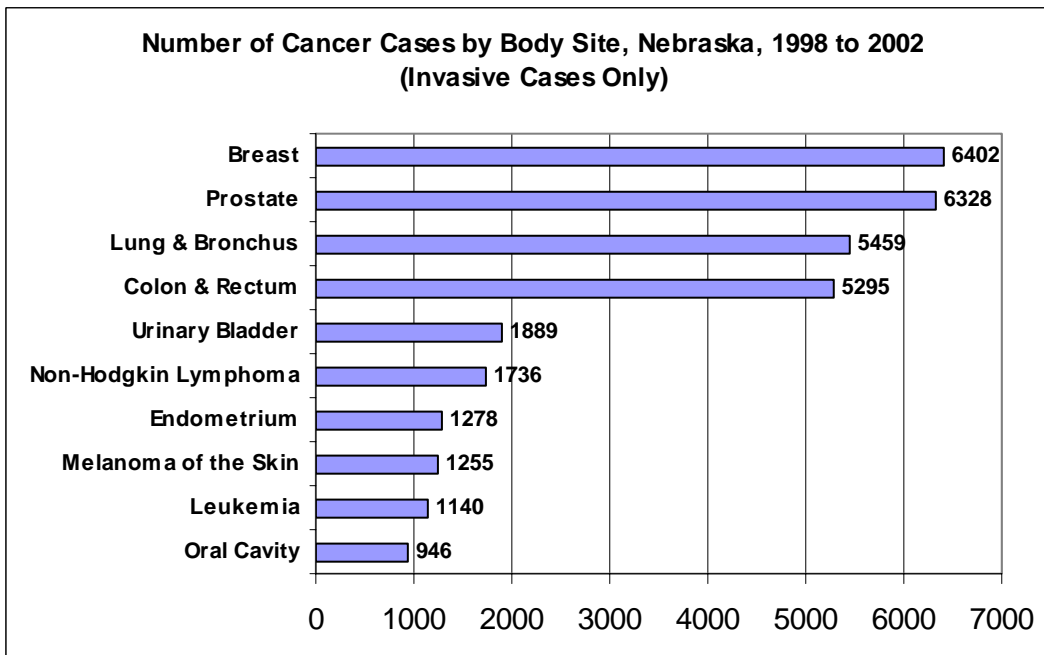


## CANCER IN NEBRASKA

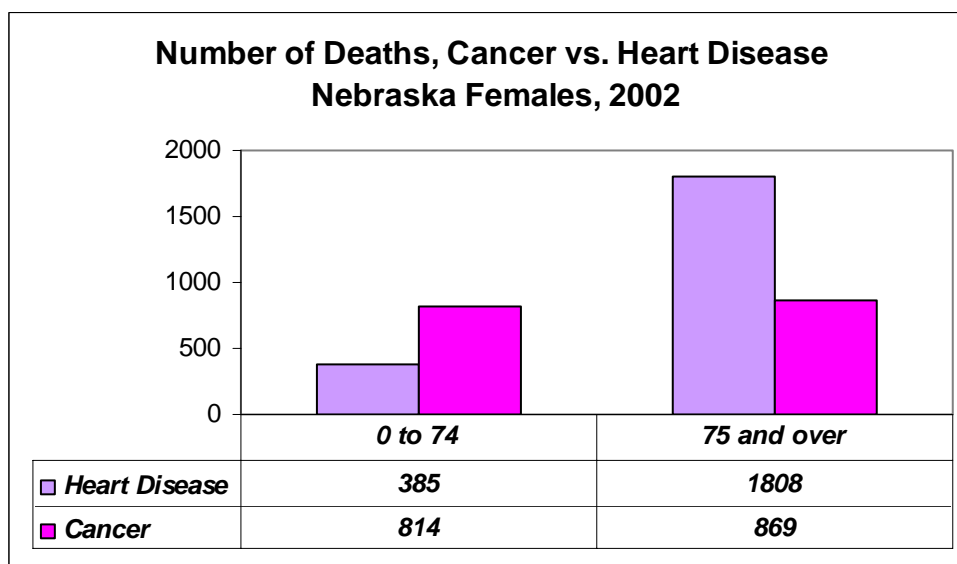
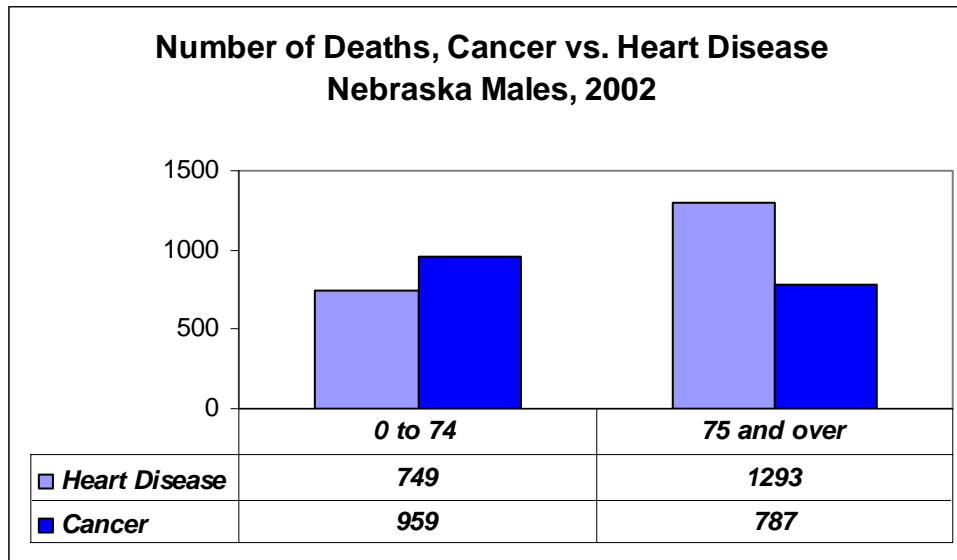
There are over 8,000 cancers diagnosed annually in Nebraska. The risk of developing cancer increases with age: as a result, almost two-thirds of all new cases are diagnosed among people 65 years of age and older. Cancer rarely occurs in young people—less than 1% of Nebraska cases during the past five years were diagnosed among children and adolescents.



The leading types of cancer by body site are shown in the chart below. Four sites account for nearly 60% of all new cases: lung, breast, prostate, and colon and rectum (colorectal). Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality, accounting for more 25% of all cancer deaths, followed by colorectal and breast cancers.



While cancer is the second leading cause of death in Nebraska and nationally, it is the leading cause of death among people under the age of 75. This is true for both men and women, as shown in the graphs below.



Much more information about cancer is available in the Nebraska Cancer Registry's 2002 annual report, which is available at <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/ced/cancer/data.htm>.

Although cancer remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality, both in Nebraska and throughout the United States, there is encouraging news on many fronts. Regular screening can find many breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers at an early stage, when the chances for effective treatment are greatest. Many cancers can be prevented by changing certain behaviors, especially smoking. Advances in the medical treatment of cancer can save or extend many lives. As a result of all of these factors, the number of cancer survivors continues to increase: in fact, almost 9.6 million Americans, and over 50,000 Nebraskans, can now be counted as cancer survivors.